

The Gift of Giving

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BIG SANDY, Texas—When reading the book of Romans, believers find that the apostle Paul mentioned seven gifts in his letter to the Romans. They are listed in Romans 12:6-8.

The fifth gift listed is the gift of giving (verse 8).

There are many scriptures in the Old and New Testaments about this subject. This article lists only a few of those scriptures in an effort to encourage your interest in studying the subject in greater detail.

God gave much to Christ

John 5:22—"For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son"

John 5:26-27—"For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man."

John 17:4-5—"I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was."

Matthew 28:18—"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.' "

God gives great gifts

John 3:16—"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Luke 11:9-12—"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?"

Luke 12:32—"Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

James 1:5—"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

Christ gives great gifts

Matthew 14:16-19—"But Jesus said to them, 'They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.' And they said to Him, 'We have here only five loaves and two fish.' He said, 'Bring them here to Me.' Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes."

Matthew 20:28—" . . . The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

1 Timothy 2:5-6—"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."

God wants believers to be givers

Luke 10:33-37—" 'But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?' And he said, 'He who showed mercy on him.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.' "

2 Corinthians 9:5-7—"Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation. But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8—"But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us."

Serve the needs, not the lusts

Ephesians 4:28—"Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need."

James 4:3—"You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures."